



1 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2 Applicant:: Wynne, John H.

Division: 2854

3 Serial No.: 10/080,470

Examiner: Yan, Ren L.

4 Filed: 02/22/2002

Fee OK

5 For: Versatile, Aligning Stencil Structure

6 Honorable Commissioner of
7 Patents and Trademarks
8 Washington, D.C. 20231

9 Dear Sir:

10 **AMENDMENT**

11 This communication is filed in response to the Official Action in the above-identified
12 application dated June 4, 2003, that Action having a shortened statutory period for response
13 set to expire on September 4, 2003. Please amend the referenced application as follows:

14 **In the Specification:**

15 Please amend the specification as indicated in the attached document titled
16 "Amendment to Specification."

17 **In the Claims:**

18 Please cancel Claims 1-22, 24 and 25. Also, please amend Claim 23 and enter
19 new claims 26-65 as indicated in the attached document titled "Amendments to Claims."

20 **Remarks:**

21 A revocation of Power of Attorney, and a new Power of Attorney are filed herewith.

22 The specification has been amended to eliminate minor typographical errors and
23 to improve the clarity of the disclosure.

24 In response to the Examiner's objection to recitation of "said assembly" and "the
25 openings" as lacking antecedent basis in Claim 23, Claim 23 has been amended to substitute

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1 "apparatus" for "assembly," and to include language which defines and therefore provides
2 proper antecedent basis for "openings." Since Claim 24 has been canceled, the Examiner's
3 objection to recitation of "the openings" in Claim 24 as lacking proper antecedent basis is now
4 moot.

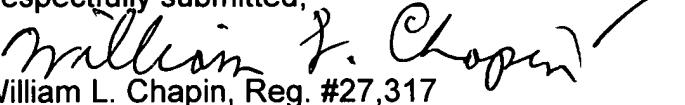
5 The Examiner's indication that Claim 23 appears to distinguish over the prior art
6 of record and thus would be allowable if the above objections were overcome is noted with
7 appreciation. Claim 23 has been amended to eliminate the bases for the Examiner's
8 objections, and should therefore now be in order for allowance.

9 New Claims 26-65 have been filed which more clearly recite novel and non-obvious
10 aspects of applicant's invention which distinguish the invention over all of the prior art of
11 record. The new claims include independent apparatus Claim 26, and Claims 25-51 which
12 depend from Claim 26, and independent method Claim 52 and Claims 53-65 which depend
13 therefrom. All of the foregoing claims recite an elongated stencil support sheet having located
14 between opposed peripheral edges thereof an elongated access area in which openings are
15 made through at least selected portions thereof to underlie cutouts of stencil plates mounted
16 to the stencil support sheet, whereby printing ink, or other such marking material is applied
17 through the stencil cutouts and said openings made through said access area to thereby
18 imprint images of said stencil plate cutouts onto an object surface. It is submitted that none
19 of the foregoing combinations of structural elements and functions is disclosed, suggested,
20 or even hinted at in any of the prior references of record, considered either separately or in
21 combination. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 23, as amended, and new Claims 26-65
22 now clearly recite a stenciling apparatus and method which is a novel and non-obvious
23 advancement over all of the prior art of record. Therefore early notice of allowance of Claim
24 23, as amended, and new Claims 26-65 is earnestly solicited.

25 There are presently 41 claims in this application, including amended Claim 23, and
26 new Claims 26-65, of which Claims 23, 26, and 52 are independent claims. Thus, there is an
27 excess of 16 claims over the 25 claims originally filed. Accordingly, a check in the amount of
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1 \$144.00 is enclosed in payment of the required excess claim fee of \$9.00 for each claim in
2 excess of the 25 claims originally filed and paid for.

3 Respectfully submitted,

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